
--RELATED APPLICATIONS

D1 This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 07/717,597, filed September 23, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,780,140. This application is also a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/702,245, filed August 28, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,840,406, which is a division of U.S. Application No. 08/314,487, filed September 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent 5,565,151.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 15-21 are presently pending in the application.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

More specifically, the Examiner states that "[t]he phrase 'between about 0.0005 and 0.0003 inches' recited in claims [sic] 21 is indefinite since it is not clear whether 0.0005 and 0.003 inches are included in the range."

It is noted that Claim 21 recites a range "between about 0.0005 and 0.002 inches" (not 0.003 inches). Applicants submit that 0.0005 and 0.002 inches are included in the range and thus the claim complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Arnam (U.S. Pat. No. 4,243,618). The Examiner states that Van Arnam at column 7, lines 1-4 "discloses cube corner trigonal pyramids having a size of about 0.003 to about 0.015 inch along the side of the base of the pyramids." The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Again, Claim 21 recites a range of "between about 0.0005 and 0.002 inches". As noted by the Examiner, Van Arnam discloses a range of "about 0.003 to about 0.015 inch along the side of the base of the pyramids". It is respectfully submitted that Van Arnam does not teach or

33

△

suggest the claimed range of Claim 21 and therefore the claim is believed to be allowable over Van Arnam.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,565,151 to Nilsen.

Applicants have claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the filing date of the '151 Nilsen Patent. The specification has been amended herein to reference U.S. Application No. 08/702,245, filed August 28, 1996, now U.S. Patent 5,840,406, which is a division of U.S. Patent 5,565,151, filed September 28, 1994. Enclosed herewith is a newly executed Declaration/Power of Attorney signed by the inventors claiming priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the filing date of the '151 Nilsen Patent (September 28, 1994). It is noted that there are a common inventor (Robert B. Nilsen) and common ownership (Reflexite Corporation) among the '406 Patent, the '151 Patent, and the present application. Also, the '151 Nilsen Patent is incorporated by reference in the present application on page 12, lines 31-33. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the '151 Nilsen Patent has been removed as a reference.


Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nilsen in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,558,740 (the '740 Patent). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the '151 Nilsen Patent has been removed as a reference. It is respectfully submitted that although the '740 Patent discloses the concept of seaming together several prism arrays, it does not teach or suggest all the limitations of Claim 1 from which Claim 4 depends. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 4 is allowable.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants' claimed invention is not anticipated by Van Arnam under 35 U.S.C.



§ 102(b). The '151 Nilsen Patent has been removed as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Applicants' claimed invention is not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims are requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By Erik Ence
Erik L. Ence
Registration No. 42,511
Telephone (781) 861-6240
Facsimile (781) 861-9540

Dated: September 15, 2000
Lexington, Massachusetts 02421-4799

△